

Unified School District Number 418

The McPherson Unified School District Number 418 serves the City of McPherson, its surrounding Planning Area, and beyond. The total district encompasses approximately 156 square miles. The district operates an alternative center, four elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school, all of which are located in McPherson. Enrollment in the McPherson schools is approximately 2300.

McPherson USD 418 is a member of the McPherson County Special Education Cooperative which provides instructional and related services for exceptional children. The special education cooperative is supported by the five unified school districts in McPherson County. In 2014-15, approximately 870 students were served by the McPherson County Special Education Cooperative.

McPherson USD 418s four neighborhood elementary schools serve students in pre-kindergarten through grade 5. Each of the elementary schools offers a comprehensive program, including library services, art, music, computer-assisted instruction, and special education. Curriculum is developed cooperatively by teachers throughout the district.

McPherson Middle School, grades 6-8, offers a broad program of academic and elective exploratory courses. Activities, intramural and interscholastic sports are also available.

McPherson High School, grades 9-12, offers a strong college preparatory program as well as vocational education. A wide selection of co-curricular and extracurricular programs is available for students.

The locations of the schools as well as the elementary school attendance boundaries are illustrated in Figure 11-B, and a summary of the characteristics of each school is presented in Table 11-B. Detailed information about McPherson USD 418 can also be obtained on the internet at <http://www.mcpherson.com/418/>.

Existing School District Facilities

Central Office - 514 North Main

Offices of the superintendent, assistant superintendents, special education director, director of instruction, psychologists, transition coordinator and district technology coordinator are located in this building. Several conference rooms are available for meetings, including one in which the board of education meetings are regularly held. The McPherson County Special Education Cooperative headquarters is also located in this building.

Early Childhood Office (ECO)

ECC changed its name to **Early Childhood Office (ECO)** spring of 2014. All Early Childhood classrooms were placed into neighborhood schools, eliminating the concept of a childhood center. Early Childhood Offices house staff and administration working for the Early Childhood Programs.

ECO is located at 915 E 1st McPherson, KS. The Center was moved to Washington from 1106 Hospital Dr. during the summer of 1997, following the remodeling and construction work at Washington. The offices were moved to its current location March of 2014 due to the renovations and demolition at WES summer of 2014.

The ECO program offers services for McPherson County early childhood students. ECO manages several Early Childhood Programs including: Early Childhood Special Education, Head Start, State PreK & Community students for McPherson and Marion Counties. The program currently serves 198 students in 4 school districts.

Eisenhower Elementary School - 301 East Wickersham

Eisenhower occupies a site of 17.1 acres located in the far north central part of the city. Construction on Eisenhower was started in July 1995 and was completed in time for school to begin in August 1996. Enrollment capacity of the school is 325; enrollment for the 2015-16 school year was 270 students, PreK-5.

McPherson High School - 801 East First

McPherson High School occupies a site of 47 acres located in the central-northeast part of the city. The school was constructed in 1963, and additions were made in 1972, 1973, 1977, 1985, 1997 and 2015. The high school serves students in grades 9-12 and had an enrollment of 735 students for the 2015-16 school year.

McPherson Middle School - 700 East Elizabeth

McPherson Middle School is located on a 7.5 acre site. The original building was constructed in 1938 as McPherson High School. It was used as the high school until 1962, and was then changed to a junior high school for grades 7-9. Following an evaluation of the district's facilities in the mid-1980s, the board of education and administration determined it necessary to close several district schools and restructure the grade levels of others. The junior high became McPherson Middle School, grades 6-8, in 1985. Following a successful bond issue, a major expansion and remodeling of this building was completed in 1989. Enrollment for the 2015-16 school year was 549 students.

Lincoln Elementary School - 900 North Ash

Lincoln was constructed in 1979, on a three-acre site. It replaced the former school building which was built in 1922. Enrollment capacity is 450; enrollment for the 2015-16 school year was 241 students, PreK-5.

Maintenance Office – 201 North Oak

The school district maintains a shop building at this location. All building and grounds maintenance is coordinated from this facility.

Park Warehouse - 210 North Elm

The previous structure was built in 1918 on a three-acre site, and additions were made in 1953, 1954, and 1955. The facility was used as a school until 1985. After that, classes were no longer held in Park because of structural deterioration in the center section. The building was then used as central storage for the district. As part of the 1994 bond issue, the 1918 center portion of the building was demolished leaving the gym on the north end and an auditorium on the south end. A new structure, built on the site of the demolished school building, connecting the gym and the auditorium was constructed in 1996, and is now the district warehouse, and includes the former auditorium space.

Roosevelt Elementary School - 800 South Walnut

Roosevelt was constructed in 1979 on a two-acre site replacing the former building which was built in 1922. An addition was completed in 2015 that added four classrooms, a commons, kitchen and cafeteria, and the gymnasium was also updated. Enrollment capacity is 450. Enrollment for the 2015-16 school year is 310 students, PreK-5.

Washington Elementary School - 128 North Park

Washington is located north of Kansas Avenue between Park Street and Lakeside Park on a five-acre site. The original school was constructed in 1934; additions to the school were made in 1952, 1960 and 1997. An additional major addition of 6 classrooms, office area, and commons was completed during the 2014-2015 school year. Enrollment for the 2015-16 school year is 276 students, PreK-5.

School Location and Site Standards

Elementary schools generally should not be located adjacent to major arterial streets or in commercial and industrial areas. If possible, they should be located in the center of a neighborhood adjacent to a neighborhood park. The elementary school should be near a collector street, but the surrounding street system should be designed so that only local traffic would use that collector. State standards encourage a minimum of five acres plus one acre per 100 pupils for an elementary school site, with a desirable standard being ten acres plus one acre per 100 pupils.

Secondary schools should be located as closely as possible to their service areas and should be near a major street because of the greater number of students transported by vehicles. Secondary school site sizes vary considerably because of different needs for outside physical education facilities, parking, buffer areas, etc., but standards often encouraged are 20 acres plus one acre per 100 students for junior high schools and 30 acres plus one acre per 100 students for high schools.

An important point when building a new school is to acquire enough land initially to satisfy both existing and potential future needs for building expansion, accessory facilities, and an adequate buffer area.

There should be sufficient sidewalks around school facilities to handle safely the pedestrian traffic approaching or leaving the school. These sidewalks should be designed to merge in a safe manner with the city/neighborhood sidewalk system feeding into the school property.

Parking for school facilities should be adequate and planned for the safety of students, staff and school visitors coming to the school as well as local traffic. Parking for bus loading and unloading should be separate from general parking areas and reasonably convenient to building entrances.